

A
Service of Thanksgiving
for the
Diamond Jubilee
of
Toc H



An Introduction to Worship

This jubilee gives all of us in Toc H the opportunity to offer thanksgiving for the greatness of its simplicity. The strength of Toc H is that we do not organise specialised aid, but that small groups of people respond to the need for compassionate action where they live. In doing so, we have been given a glimpse of the divine purpose of life.

Toc H is concerned with the attitudes people have towards one another and tries to so arrange its affairs that conviction and conflict hold equal sway in daily life. The world needs Toc H because the places where controversy walks hand in hand with respect and trust must be kept open.

For those who see us, yet know nothing of us, we resolve to offer joyful evidence that love, laughter and commitment, as Christ ordained, are the foundations upon which the notion of one people in Christ can be built.

For meditation before the service:-

I will pour out my spirit on your offspring and
my blessing on your children.

There are plenty to follow our Lord half-way,
but not the other half.

We have the means to love
We know the way to love
We lack only the will.

To Him who by the power at work within us is
able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or
think, to Him be glory.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional Hymn

Tune: St. Denio

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above,
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908.

*When all have taken their places the congregation remains
standing*

Padre

In thanksgiving for our spiritual heritage in Toc H and the Church, we come now together; to acknowledge the vision and commitment of faithful men and women of past generations; to renew our trust and to seek God's grace, that in us also, and in those who will follow us, the light of His love and joy and peace may be seen.

Wherefore let us keep silence and remember God's presence with us now.

All

Eternal God, the same yesterday, today and forever,
whose loving-kindness is to every generation;
whose glory is the light within us;
whose forgiveness we all need;
renew in us a right spirit.
Revive our trust in Thy love;
set before us Thy joy;
and teach us all that belongs to our peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Metrical Psalm

*(during the singing of the Psalm, the Readers will move to
their places)*

Tune: Dundee

Praise waits for Thee in Zion, Lord;
To Thee vows paid shall be.
O Thou that hearer art of prayer,
All flesh shall come to Thee.

Bless'd is the man whom Thou dost choose,
And mak'st approach to Thee,
That he within Thy courts, O Lord,
May still a dweller be.

We surely shall be satisfied
With Thy abundant grace,
And with the goodness of Thy house,
E'en of Thy holy place.

Therefore the ends of all the earth
And those afar that be
Upon the sea, their confidence,
O Lord, will place in Thee.

Four Readings

(from the Lectern)

Psalm 145 verses 4-13

One generation shall laud thy works to another,
and shall declare thy mighty acts.
Of the glorious splendour of thy majesty, and of thy
wondrous works, I will meditate.
Men shall proclaim the might of thy terrible acts,
and I will declare thy greatness.

They shall pour forth the fame of thy abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All thy works shall give thanks to thee, O Lord,
and all thy saints shall bless thee!
They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom,
and tell of thy power,
to make known to the sons of men thy mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of thy kingdom.
Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and thy dominion endures throughout all generations.

(from the Pulpit)

St. Mark chapter 4 verses 1-9

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

And he taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

"Listen! A sower went out to sow.

And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.

Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it had not much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil;

and when the sun rose it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away.

Other seed fell among thorns and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.

And other seeds fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty-fold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

(from among the Congregation)

"Contempt for humanity"
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

There is a very real danger of our drifting into an attitude of contempt for humanity. We know full well that it would be very wrong, and that it would lead to the most sterile relation with our fellow men. Perhaps the following considerations will save us from this temptation. The trouble about it is that it lands us into the worst mistake of our enemies. The man who despises others can never hope to do anything with them. The faults we despise in others are always, to some extent at least, our own too. How often have we expected from others more than we are prepared to do ourselves! Why have we until now held such lofty views about human nature? Why have we not recognised its frailty and liability to temptation? We must form our estimate of men less from their achievements and failures, and more from their sufferings. The only profitable relationship to others — and especially to our weaker brethren — is one of love, that is the will to hold fellowship with them. Even God did not despise humanity, but became Man for man's sake.

(from the Altar or Communion Table)

2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 14 - 20

For we are ruled by Christ's love for us, now that we recognise that one man died for all men, which means that all men take part in his death.

He died for all men so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake.

No longer, then, do we judge anyone by human standards. Even if at one time we judged Christ according to human standards, we no longer do so.

When anyone is joined to Christ he is a new being: the old has gone, the new has come.

All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends, and gave us the task of making others his friends also.

Our message is that God was making friends of all men through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins against them, and he has given us the message of how he makes them his friends.

Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were appealing to you through us: on Christ's behalf, we beg you, let God change you from enemies into friends!

The readings ended, the congregation will stand and join in

An Act of Thanksgiving

(The words in lighter print are to be spoken by a single voice: in heavier print by all present)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

And God saw everything that He had made
that it was very good

Let us renew our thanksgiving
for the beauty of our created world,
the heavens, the sea and the earth;
for the rhythm of day and night,
and the changing seasons on which we depend for
health and food.

(pause)

Thou by whose unfailing bounty we draw our life and
all that we have;

forgive our pride and self-sufficiency.

Teach us to reverence the earth,

which thou hast made fruitful,

and our unity with those by whose work we are fed,
clothed and housed.

Deepen our compassion for all who have less than we
have,

who are without food or home,
or the resources to buy them.

As thou hast given us the knowledge which can
produce plenty,

so give us also the wisdom and the will
to bring it within the reach of all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God
and he who loves is born of God and knows God

If we love one another, God abides in us
and His love is perfected in us

Let us renew our thanksgiving
that love has proved more powerful than hate in the
affairs of nations and in our own experience;
for all we have learnt from those we love
and those who love us
from those who find it hard to love us
and whom we find it hard to love.

(pause)

O God, by whose Spirit we have been drawn together
as a family,
moving among all men and women divided by race,
creed and wealth;
enable us to understand how strong we could be
by learning from one another,
and enjoying the diversity of our daily life and leisure
with the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

* * * * *

For the Lord is good to all,
His steadfast love endures for ever.

And His faithfulness to all generations.

Let us renew our thanksgiving
for our heritage in a society
which upholds the rights and responsibilities of every
citizen
freedom of opinion for all
and is committed to the search for yet more light and
truth.

(pause)

For the contribution of Toc H to this heritage
through sixty years;
for the vision of our founders, and the faithfulness of
those who worked with them.
for all in Toc H in whom we have seen the light of
God's grace, and especially here among us.

(pause)

O God our Father

let us not be content to wait and see what will happen,
but give us the determination to make the right things
happen.

While our time is running out

save us from resignation, which is akin to cowardice.

Give us the courage to be either hot or cold,

to stand for something less we fall for anything;

and yours be the praise and the glory for ever. Amen

Hymn

*(During the singing of the hymn the Readers will return
to their seats)*

Tune: Regent Square

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing
Of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love and action
Help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father into freedom,
From despair your world release;
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
Men may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
Fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race or schooling,
Dogmas keeping man from man.
In our common quest for justice
May we hallow life's brief span.

You, creator-God, have written
Your great name on all mankind;
For our growing in your likeness
Bring the life of Christ to mind;
That by our response and service
Earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan

The Sermon

*During the singing of the hymn an Offering will be taken to
cover the expenses of the Service and to support the Jubilee
Projects of Toc H*

Tune: Abbotts Leigh

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Sion, city of our God!
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode:
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage –
Grace which, like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?

Saviour, if of Sion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name:
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Sion's children know.

J. Newton. 1725-1807

*The Offering having been received and the sidesmen returned
to their places, there follows*

An Act of Dedication

(all kneeling)

Padre In obedience to thy Holy Spirit we make our offering
of thanksgiving. Teach us to use both what we give
and what we hold in obedience to the same Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Padre Let us keep silence and make our personal
re-dedication.

(pause)

All O God who has so wonderfully made Thy Church and set
us in it to see our duty as Thy will: teach us to live
together in love, and joy and peace:
to check all bitterness:
to disown discouragement;
to practise thanksgiving:
and to leap with joy to any task for others;
strengthen the good thing thus begun, that with
gallant and high-hearted happiness,
we may work for Thy kingdom in the wills of men:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Benediction

*(If the Ceremony of Light is introduced into this service, an
appropriate point for it is at the conclusion of the Act of
Thanksgiving)*

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